

American Master



Raymond L. Bianchi

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For My Parents

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c/o William Allegrezza

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*Tal un festín pagano. Y amarla hasta el muerte,
mientras las venas siembran rojas perlas de mal;
y así volverse al polvo, conquistador sin suerte,
dejando miles de ojos de sangre en el puñal.*

Cesar Vallejo, Pagana

Counting

noble worker

having served you

brought you from poor wretch to rich suburbanite

The false counsel of the ungrateful

immodest

I renounce all I've learned here

and spit on the wood tearing my flesh

Arnold of Brescia preached against the Church taking up arms and fighting wars.

Returning to Chicago after a long time away things become apparent about the city of my formation that were not evident before. The first thing your notice is the fact that real Chicagoans always find a way to find out who you are-with this I mean where you came from. There are a whole set of preconceptions that remain strongly held in Chicago about people and where their last name originated.

Suddenly

become strong

full of conviction

affix blame

proclaim a fast

solution

definite questions, movement of purpose

certain order

Compose our movement on the question; war guilt clarified in the light of historical truth. The preliminary condition led to future success. our movement

should bring knowledge of the meaning of peace to the minds of the popular culture.

democratic success.

dig into the mushy mud of the people
the naked truth
despicable swindle
hideousness

drip the paint outside the lines
blend the edges
remove the sharpness
crush right angles

use the brushes like sticks
paint over the door so it won't open
struggling stages

a temptation to conform

the tactics of battle-cries
crazy conclusions
particularly strong stenches
motives found entirely illusory,
point towards the same ends

a young movement

Human fecundity a semblance of justification

Martin Luther arguing with the Pope
Francis Xavier arguing with Krishna
Hernan Cortes smashing jade idols

Chicago unlike New York is a city where the basic and the hard won is prized and quick millions are envied but never respected. Donald Trump must be building that big building on the river because no one here thinks that his gold lame life is worth thinking about.

A broad sword-a tank- a cruise missile
general cry, fear of public opinion had been sought by the Danes
especially Edvard Munch-

scream you Scandinavian joy Killer!

the struggle against a system which we Americans sought in those days, to
consider as the one ray of light in this distracted world.

Scandinavian design bedroom sets.

the international World-Danish conspiracy
forces us to eat prunes and apricot jelly
vociferate against the courage to liberate yourself from the shackles of teakwood
and cold lamps

one quarter of the globe is set against the forces of Scandinavian Design this
international world-poison. Ikea, Kierkegaard, and most of all

Prune Danish!

Everywhere you go in Chicago-

Poles! Poles! Poles!
unconscious of their own crime.
grasp the rudder with an iron turn
movement about away from
blood sausages and Keibasa
this fatty lifestyle led onto the rocks.

Certainly these Rosary wielding hordes need to leave!

Plaudits- movement.

Huge churches filled with priests and nuns they yearn to change our society with their "K's and W's and Z's are we going to let them? !

Public opinion says that they are hurting our city- this is the opinion of the Mexicans the Italians the English the Blacks and the Jews who of course are natives to this place unlike the Poles.

Arnold of Brescia was formed as a monk and preached holiness and against property for this his remains were dumped in the river Tiber.

Languid moments humid meals filled with mothballs
Meat is filled with sugar and spice and everything nice

Willem de Kooning slapping Jackson Pollock until his ears bled

Lee Krasner was the problem

not poor drunk Jackson why did she persist?

Anguish at the sense that Pound was a Fascist and a bigamist and a totally sexy
man who was so cool in his cape and Chinese characters

Sirmione?

Great Coffee! Great Fascism!

Oh! the uniforms! I love the uniforms the tassels and the black and silver the Fez
on the head-the vest and silky satiny puffy shirt!

Ambition complications may well be such moments certain individuals have to
endure hours of anguish;

but they should not forget that the moment of liberation will come.

Enduring successes in history are mostly those which were least understood at the
beginning.

Leon Trotsky sitting on Arthur Street in the Bronx ; looking for just the right cheese for his Tagliatelle. They were in strong contrast to public opinion views wished of the time public favor an onslaught on the morals of the people

Two or three thousand people gave up their opinions everyday watching cable news. destroying the foundations your views one blow to the head with a bat. let the blood flow down your face and let your teeth break off with nerves dangling.

Propaganda beating the artificers of it at their own work. Master of that art. clear idea before the probable

A few Chicago poets are Chicago poets and their work is filled with a vigor that is upsetting and unabashed and rarely receives praise. A poet who hits the same comfortable notes wins prizes, a poet who uses harsh words ends up on the margins.

expunging memory arguments of old ideas anticipated the replies.
what was refuted is persistency

opposition to Ikea is unjust in many cases an honest moral dislike to such a proceeding was also the reason why the shameless monstrous word- *home assembly required*- came into common use in America.

This hypocritical falsehood appeared to millions of our countrymen as a slap in the face a higher justice a terrible thought, propaganda initiated by these Swedes against by explaining the directions to us- peddling Sweet rolls and laminated furniture. The glue used is applied with fingers but not your own.

the soul has passed through the doctrine of Christ crucified, and come out the other side painting a hazard of vice, and self-knowledge she remains, with her door bolted- separated entirely from the sounds of the world.

Why does she thus shut herself in? She does so from fear, knowing her own sins and vice from the desire for anonymous sex with strangers those who imperil her life.

Pure generous love knows well that in no other way can she arrive clean and pure before the Holy Seat.

She waits, with a lively faith for My arrival, By perseverance in virtue, the fact the soul never turns back for anything, whatever it be, nor rises from holy prayer, for any reason.

Clots of Blood on the ground betrayal before the assembled host.

Tedious soul, tempting her often with these words:

40% Off sale today at Nordstroms!

Indiscreet soul robs Me of the honor due to Me, attributes it to herself, through vainglory, that which is really her own –

grieving murmuring concerning

Aristotle and Plato--Weber and Camus, all banal garbage in the face of Heidegger, Madonna or especially Jennifer Lopez these are good for bling bling the coin of the realm .

Possess the virtue of thrift. Render what is due to Me; to Caesar, his share.
Proceed to render to your neighbor nothing

Stay in continuous prayer daily communicant with the debt of doctrine Nicaea is burning and Albi is sodden with sweat

Virtu and Virtue,

Leonardo Da Vinci and fashion runways, Carlos Drummond de Andrade sitting with Regis Bonvicino talking about butchering a hog and smoking.

He fixes his aim and chooses the means to reach it –paltry people eagerly follow the doings of super-men gaze at large figures.

chickens indifferent ignore everything wait for their heads to be removed so that they can be made into soup.

Morsel of bread snatched from the beak of a bird that is being boiled into paint shards-

poltroons prick up your ears and sniff for little gain

formulate a definite program come forward and proclaim that they are fighting for a just cause.

shameless

listen to the breaking of bones without offering a splint or a smoke of a Gitane or a bag of Ruffles Chips.

Willem De Kooning was an American Master
He sat next to Ronald Reagan at the White House

And did not know who he was.

Aristotle, the philosopher was a friend of Thomas Aquinas
And Aquinas was friends with the Pope
And the Pope was friends with St Francis
And St Francis was a friend to lepers.

Iconium in Asia Minor is an important place
Paul was there preaching
Rumi wrote in Iconium

Alexandria is where Hypatia was killed
Humanist woman in a city of monks
They cut her body into pieces and burned them

Monks in the 4th century were responsible for the closing of temples
Libraries and baths
Monks in the 13th century discovered Temples, Libraries and Baths
Monks invented Genetics
Monks are opposed to Genetic Research

Snow is cold and most people in the tropical world have never seen it live.

A delicatessen is a place to buy Jewish cold cuts and pickles
An Italian provision store is a place to buy pork products cured and unavailable to Jews.

Hispanic Groceries have great fruit sections and gross meat sections.

Dim Sum is very expensive ...a real rip off.

Chicago has many Polish clubs and there are many Polish intellectuals.

Brazil is hot and humid and everyone wears scanty clothes.

Poets are dishonest about their intentions they only want to meet women.

Bankrolled I put the Roll mop in my mouth and squeeze out its fishy juice.

The best part of Chicago is the poetry reading scene, unless someone from New York is there if that is the case then all the Chicago poets of note will buzz around the NYC poet hoping for favors.

The inquisition was founded to defeat the Catharii in southern France they were the *perfecti* and believed in purity like the Catholics- but not the same purity so they were burned alive and purified.



Raymond Bianchi a native of Chicago. Ray is the child of Italian immigrants to the USA and spent most of the 1990's living and working in Bolivia and Brazil first as a volunteer and later in business. His poetry has appeared in *26*, *Antennae*, *Bird Dog*, *Near South*, *Moria*, and *Red River Review*. His book *Circular Descent* was published by Blaze Vox Press in 2004. He lives in Oak Park, IL.